

Dear Jim,

3/10/78

~~Dear Jim~~ I'll be seeing Wrono next week and will tell him about your 3/6. He is coming here for an oral history on Farewell America and to take more files back with him.

For at least six months they have an authentic scholar working on the archive. Odd story. Dave found this PhD driving a cab - unable to get scholarly work. He has explored famous British archives and is good at it.

Your work at Hospice should be gratifying to you...I wish I'd had the opportunity of taping a long narrative from Mary Schoener once when I introduced him to the ExPost's science-medical writer, on work of which Mary was part. My recollection is strong enough to know that the time is worthwhile. Independent of what you've said.

California's weather has been much in the local TV news recently. We all know about the rains and their consequences, etc.

Our own has again been exceptional. Last winter was a rough one but it never got as cold as it usually does. It just got cold and stayed cold, freezing to a new depth and cracking footings and supposedly safe pipes. This year is a copy only not quite as cold. I don't think it got down to zero once. But we've had snow on the ground since mid-November - 10 or 11 storms and until recently little thawing.

Once it started snowing my firewood supply could not be replenished. I save back enough to last about two days, in case of an emergency. I'll get wood thawed before the sap is up much and lay it back for next winter.

The pavement at the lab where my blood is tested weekly is up as much as 8 inches. For two days they could not get the door to the Block office in which I had worked open wide enough for people to use it.

As I probably told you, our lane has been ice since the first rain or thaw after the first snow. I've been keeping after it but until now without making much progress. I'd get back to where I'd been and the stuff came down again. Especially today I was able to sheet off large chunks. Thick stuff. I had to break much of it to shovel it out of the lane so it would thaw without creating more ice at night. Today I did more such lifting, it tired me but I feel very good about it and about being able to do it. I believe it has been a real benefit to me. One of the typical symptoms of atherosclerosis has disappeared entirely and another has diminished very much since I've been doing this. If it does not get too cold tonight I'll have most if not all cleared by tomorrow night.

The winter should be about over but we still have freezes nightly. I'm hoping tonight will be the first exception.

The deer must have trouble getting food. Tracks up to the house, where we feed the birds. Pheasants staying close, too. Scared one early couple mornings ago. He was perched high in a tall white pine. First time I've known one to roost that close to the house.

We do look forward to your getting here. Lil should have no last-minute emergencies. She did not advertise this year. However, she has as much business as she wants. Repeats and recommendations from the satisfied. (She has finally recognized that she has always pushed herself too hard because she likes the tax work. She is superb at it, too.) She has found time to be of help to me. My hunch is that her work will be slacking off. Hope so. She is putting in long days still, but without the pressures of the past.

Glad you sounded so good when we spoke.

Best wishes,